NEWS RELEASE

May 20, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.

Contact: Steve Sautter

Public Information Officer (509) 628-8470 (Office) (509) 539-0312 (Cell)

Yakima River levels crest

Richland, Wash.: The latest information from the National Weather Service indicates that the Yakima River near Kiona/Benton City reached its projected crest today at about 11 a.m. The current level of 11.31 feet may fluctuate for a few hours before it begins to recede.

Property owners along the river should continue to monitor water levels and take any precautions needed to protect life and property. Residents should continue to stay away from the high and fast moving waters.

The amount of debris in the river continues to increase. Boaters on the Columbia River below the confluence of the Yakima should take appropriate precautions.

Local officials will continue to monitor the situation and provide updated information as it becomes available. Up-to-date information is also available on the Benton County Emergency Services website at www.bces.wa.gov.